

**LISTING OF THE CLAIMS**

The following listing of claims replaces all previous versions and listings of claims in the present application.

1. (original) An interstitial circuit board, comprising:  
a integrated circuit device interface adapted to contact first circuitry of an integrated circuit device;  
a circuit board interface adapted to contact second circuitry of a circuit board; and  
interstitial circuitry comprising a plurality of traces having termination components between the integrated circuit device interface and the circuit board interface.
2. (original) The interstitial circuit board of claim 1, wherein the termination components are adapted to reduce signal degradation of signals passing through the plurality of traces.
3. (original) The interstitial circuit board of claim 1, wherein the termination components comprise a resistor.
4. (original) The interstitial circuit board of claim 1, wherein the termination components comprise a capacitor.
5. (original) The interstitial circuit board of claim 1, wherein the termination components comprise an inductor.
6. (original) The interstitial circuit board of claim 1, wherein the termination components comprise a diode.
7. (original) The interstitial circuit board of claim 1, wherein the interstitial circuitry comprises multiple layers.

8. (original) The interstitial circuit board of claim 7, wherein at least some of the terminating components are disposed in different layers of the multiple layers.

9. (original) The interstitial circuit board of claim 7, wherein the multiple layers comprise power and ground planes.

10. (original) A circuit board, comprising:

a substrate comprising circuitry traces extending to an interstitial circuit board interface adapted to receive an interstitial circuit board having a plurality of termination components and traces for connection with an integrated circuit device, wherein the circuitry traces comprise a desired configuration at least partially free of termination components.

11. (original) The circuit board of claim 10, comprising the interstitial circuit board mounted to the interstitial circuit board interface.

12. (original) The circuit board of claim 11, wherein the interstitial circuit board has a relatively smaller footprint than the circuit board.

13. (original) The circuit board of claim 10, wherein the termination components are adapted to reduce signal degradation.

14. (original) The circuit board of claim 10, wherein the termination components comprise a resistor.

15. (original) A system for connecting an integrated circuit device, comprising:

a circuit board, comprising:

a first set of traces at least partially free of termination components; and

a first interface coupled to the first set of traces; and

an interstitial circuit board, comprising:

a second interface coupled to the first interface;

a second set of traces coupled to the second interface and having a plurality of termination components; and

a third interface coupled to the second set of traces, wherein the third interface is adapted to couple with the integrated circuit device.

16. (original) The system of claim 15, comprising the integrated circuit device, which comprises a processor.

17. (original) The system of claim 15, comprising the integrated circuit device, which comprises a memory controller.

18. (original) The system of claim 15, comprising the integrated circuit device, which comprises an input/output controller.

19. (original) The system of claim 15, comprising the integrated circuit device, which comprises an application specific integrated circuit.

20. (original) The system of claim 15, wherein the system comprises a computer system.

21. (original) The system of claim 15, wherein the circuit board comprises a computer motherboard.

22. (original) The system of claim 15, wherein the plurality of termination components are disposed in multiple levels of the interstitial circuit board.

23. (original) The system of claim 22, wherein the multiple levels comprise power and ground planes.

24. (original) The system of claim 15, wherein the interstitial circuit board has a substantially smaller footprint than the circuit board.

25. (original) The system of claim 15, wherein the plurality of termination components comprise a resistor.

26. (original) A system, comprising:  
a first circuit board comprising first traces leading to a first electrical interface;  
a second circuit board comprising a second electrical interface mounted to the first electrical interface and second traces extending from the second electrical interface to a third electrical interface for an integrated circuit device, wherein the second traces comprise means for reducing signal degradation.

27-33. (cancelled)

34. (original) A system for connecting a device to a circuit board, comprising:  
an integrated circuit device having a first interface; and  
an interstitial circuit board, comprising:  
a second interface coupled to the first interface;  
a set of traces coupled to the second interface and having a plurality of termination components; and  
a third interface coupled to the set of traces, wherein the third interface is adapted to couple with the circuit board.

35. (original) The system of claim 34, comprising the circuit board, which comprises a plurality of traces at least partially free of termination components.

36. (original) The system of claim 34, wherein the integrated circuit device comprises a processor.

37. (original) The system of claim 34, wherein the plurality of termination components are disposed in multiple layers of the interstitial circuit board.

38. (original) The system of claim 37, wherein the multiple layers comprise power and ground planes.

39. (original) The system of claim 34, wherein the plurality of termination components are selected from a group consisting of a resistor, a capacitor, an inductor, and a diode.